

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET		25X1
COUNTRY <u>East Germany</u>	REPORT <u></u>	25X1
TOPIC <u>Recruiting Campaign for the KVP</u>		
EVALUATION <u></u>	PLACE OBTAINED <u></u>	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT <u></u>		25X1
DATE OBTAINED <u></u>	DATE PREPARED <u>31 August 1955</u>	25X1
REFERENCES <u></u>		
PAGES <u>4</u>	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) <u></u>	
REMARKS <u></u>		
<u>This is UNEVALUATED Information</u>		

25X1

1. In early April 1955, the KVP recruiting campaign was primarily directed toward students, and workers and employees of state-owned enterprises. Prior to early May, 170 students of Leipzig University yielded to pressure and registered for service with the KVP.
2. In June, young engineers of a major industrial enterprise were told that their studies had been paid by the state and that they should therefore, prove their thankfulness for this generosity by volunteering for the defense of their country within the ranks of the KVP.
3. By 8 May, the FDJ was to recruit a total of 32,000 volunteers for the KVP.

25X1

25X1
25X1

from 1 April to 30 April*	9,858
" 1 May to 20 May	4,891
" 21 May to 20 June	4,834
" 21 June to 10 July	4,105

Total: 23,688 = 74.03 % of the recruitment quota fixed

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4. Estimates made indicated that of all KVP volunteers, about 60 percent had been recruited by the FDJ, 30 percent by the SED and the remainder by other organizations. 1, 2

25X1

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

5. A total of 4,800 KVP officer candidates were to be recruited from among high school graduates. Prior to 10 July, only 2,719 high school graduates, that is 56.6 percent of the quota fixed, had actually volunteered for KVP service.

25X1

6. In early July, it was learned in the area of the SED Bezirk Headquarters in Erfurt that 15.8 percent of this year's high school graduates had been recruited as KVP officer candidates. The target fixed had been 33 percent of all high school graduates.

7. After Easter 1955, KVP officers almost daily visited the Oberschule (high school for boys) at Oranienburg in order to recruit the 1937 and 1938 classes of this year's high school graduates for service with the KVP. All of the students of 2 classes who were scheduled to complete their studies in June, volunteered for service with the KVP. 3

8.

25X1

Of about 400 party members and party candidates nominated to the recruiting commission, 250 declared their readiness to serve with the KVP. Of these, a total of 126 candidates were classified as fit for service; 24 had still to report for physical examination; 43 were rejected as unfit; 6 were rejected for miscellaneous reasons, and 51 did not report for the physical examination. Of those who were classified as fit for military service, 59 were inducted into the KVP and 15 into Inner Security units in the second half of April. 1

9. In one GDR Kreis, of 36 party members invited to appear before a recruiting commission, only 32 reported. Workers of agricultural production co-operatives generally reacted favorably to appeals to join the KVP. Employees of government agencies and business clerks generally refused to join the KVP. Contrary to orders issued, the chairmen of the individual recruiting commissions did not simply delegate the party members into the KVP but made efforts to convince them that voluntary service was advisable.

10. In early May, it was learned at the Bezirk Registration Office at Chemnitz that 25% of the personnel scheduled to be recruited for the KVP were to be assigned to border police and SFS units. Efforts were continually made to recruit engineers, construction experts and doctors up to 60 years old. These men were to be given officer rank after attending short training courses. The recruiting campaign for the VP-Air and VP-Sea had been stopped. 1

11. Although some Kreis registration agencies managed to fulfill their recruiting quota by mid-May, the total result of the recruiting campaign was considered inadequate. In early June, the monthly

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

recruiting quota of the Bezirk registration offices was increased by 1,500 men. At the same time, new efforts were made to recruit high school students as officer candidates. Former officers who had become SED members were greatly interested in joining the KVP. KVP recruiting activities were scheduled to continue along usual lines after completion of the current recruiting campaign. ²

12. At a conference, it was stated that persons who had not served for two years with the KVP would henceforth have no chance of getting ahead in their professional careers. For the month of July, the recruiting quota was reduced. Only persons who were unwilling to work or to learn volunteered for the KVP. After 20 July, only genuine volunteers were accepted. ²
13. In mid-July, the KVP recruiting campaign at the Kirow Works in Leipzig was restricted to a pertinent notice at the bulletin board of the enterprise. No pressure was brought to bear on young workers. ²
14. In early May, it was learned at Bad Freienwalde that the induction age for KVP had been raised to 25.
15. In late May, it was learned at Templin that young men of the 18 - 22 classes were to be recruited for the KVP and those of the 23 - 25 classes for the border police.
16. On 1 June, a shipment of young men who had been recruited for the KVP by the Kreis Registration Office at Oranienburg were dispatched from the Schlesischer Bahnhof station in Berlin to Weissenfels. The shipment included a youth who would not be 18 before August 1955. ³
17. In early May, details of propagandists, so-called instructor brigades, were organized by SED Kreis headquarters. These propagandists were to assist plant managers in their recruiting campaign for the KVP, GST and the "fighting groups."
18. In late May, about 60 youths completed their training as skilled workers at the Deutsche Werke at Ludwigsfelde. They were forced to volunteer for the KVP. From 35 to 40 young men who yielded to this pressure were shipped to Potsdam on the same day. From Potsdam they were to be sent to Prora.
19. On 3 June, it was learned that persons of military age were no longer to be assigned jobs by labor offices.
20. On 10 June, of 70 apprentices employed on a construction site at Potsdam 10 declared their readiness to serve with the KVP. They had to sign a statement that they were willing to ~~take~~ take their examination as journeymen by 15 June. These apprentices were promised favored treatment and training opportunities after completion of their 2-year term of service. Young persons who rejected service with the KVP are to be excluded from study at technical colleges and professional schools.

25X1

SECRET

25X1

SECRET

25X1

- 4 -

21. In June, efforts were made in Rostock to recruit personnel for the General Police after members of this branch of the police had been transferred to the KVP.
22. In early July, young persons who had recently been recruited for the KVP were rejected, because they had relatives in Western Germany.

25X1

23. [redacted] within the age groups recruited for the KVP, 78% of all locksmiths and mechanics, 65% of the joiners, and 55% of bricklayers, carpenters and slaters were inducted. Henceforth, only up to 35% of the members of the crafts mentioned were to be inducted.

25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. The information contained in the present report justifies the tentative conclusion that the recent KVP recruiting campaign ~~succeeded~~ in recruiting 6,000 to 7,000 candidates for the border police and SFS units, and approximately 20,000 candidates for the KVP. [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] the number of KVP soldiers (exclusive VP-Sea and VP-Air) discharged in 1955 is estimated at from 15,000 to 18,000 men. This indicates that the actual strength of the KVP has been increased from approximately 88,000 to 90 - 93,000 men.

25X1

25X1

2. [redacted] Comment. The KVP recruiting campaign conducted by the SED, PDJ and GST was originally scheduled to be completed by mid-May. The campaign was extended until early July, however. [redacted] Reports on party activities indicate that no direct pressure was brought to bear during the second half of the recruiting campaign, probably from a general realization that things had been pushed a little too far.

25X1

25X1

25X1

3. [redacted] Comment. It was reported previously that members of the 1937 class could be recruited for the KVP.

25X1

25X1

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25X1